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People: Safeguarding Our Most Treasured Asset

From the Office of the Secretary of the Navy

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The following is the text of a message released by the Secretary of the Navy:

As secretary and chief safety officer for the Department of the Navy, I strongly believe that our Sailors, Marines and civilian employees are our most important and valuable resource.

Ultimately, the most advanced ships, aircraft and weapons in the world are of no benefit to our nation without Sailors and Marines.

As we focus on combat capability, we will also stay committed to providing quality of service — the combination of both quality of life and quality of work — on our ships, our bases

and in our communities.

Moving ahead quickly with improvements to military housing and workspaces is another key element in our agenda for the future of our people. In addition to making our work places and communities the best they can be, we will also make them the safest.

I ask that each Sailor, Marine and civilian employee serve as a chief of safety for their organizations and themselves. Simply put, every one of us must ensure the safety of ourselves and of our Sailors, Marines, civilian and family members — both on and off duty.

If we perform our safety roles with the same passion we dedicate to our combat missions, we will better manage risk, minimize needless injuries and enhance our combat credibility by avoiding needless loss of manpower and equipment due to safety mishaps.

During my tenure, we will ensure that our safety and health policies are clear, realistic and uniformly applied to all members of the Navy and Marine Corps teams. We will measure our progress in the safety arena by a few simple metrics that will be monitored.

Our safety policies will also apply to all contractors who

conduct business with the Department of the Navy, and to anyone who enters DoN properties, including all ships, aircraft, bases and housing.

You have my solemn pledge to do my best as the Department of Navy's chief safety officer, but we will only achieve our best if every member of the DoN team carries out their duty as chiefs of safety responsibly. Semper paratus and sail Safe!

Gordon England,
Secretary of the Navy

For more information on the Secretary of the Navy, go to www.navy.mil and access the leadership link on the site index.

CNO Clark Announces Plans to Align the Fleet

By Lt. Brauna Carl, Navy Office of Information

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark recently announced that the Navy is taking the next step in aligning the fleet to more effectively achieve its primary mission: to carry American sovereignty to the four corners of the world, to defend America's interests and to fight and win, should deterrence fail.

"Alignment will produce the effectiveness and efficiency we need in the 21st Century Navy," said Clark.

The most significant element of this initiative is to establish Commander, U.S. Fleet Command (CFFC) as a concurrent responsibility of Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (CINCLANTFLT).

CFFC will be responsible for overall coordination, establishment and implementation of integrated requirements and policies for manning,

equipping and training Atlantic and Pacific fleet units during the inter-deployment training cycle (IDTC).

The policies and requirements will achieve standard fleet-wide practices on both coasts.

"The objective is that there's not one ounce of difference in the way these units work," said Clark. "The standards that were used to create a trained and ready product were the same regardless of where that training was conducted."

To support CFFC in this task, type commanders (TYCOM) within each warfare community will be the commanders of Naval Surface Force Pacific, Naval Air Force Pacific and Submarine Force Atlantic.

They will assume concurrent duties as fleet TYCOMS, known as Commander, Naval Surface Forces (COMNAVSURFOR); Commander,



Adm. Vern Clark, Chief of Naval Operations.
U.S. Navy photo

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CNO Says Naval Access Provides Key to Current and Future Military Operations

By Chief Journalist Walter T. Ham IV, CNO Public Affairs

PANAMA CITY, Fla. (NNS) — According to Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark, the access provided by deployed naval forces is “absolutely essential” for the nation’s current and future military operations.

“Access is a powerful word, and it is what we are talking about in Washington today as we talk about the power that naval forces bring to the task. It is my conviction that the access word will be more important to our nation in the future than it has ever been in our past,” the CNO said recently during an address to

the Mine Warfare Association Conference.

Clark said his prior assignments as director of the joint staff crisis-action team during operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, director of the joint staff, and commander in chief of the Atlantic Fleet, have given him a deeper appreciation of the importance of access and crucial role mine warfare units play in ensuring it.

Clark added that keeping the Navy’s mine warfare forces ready for future threats is critical, because mines are, and will continue to be, the weapon

of choice for adversaries trying to deny operational access to America’s military forces.

“Sea mines are the alligators and they are the asymmetric tools that tomorrow’s enemy is going to try to employ against us to deny us access,” Clark said.

The CNO said technological advances will continue to improve the Navy’s ability to “detect and engage” mines, but he also stressed the importance of developing the tactics, doctrine and training needed to effectively employ new technology. “What we must be able to conceive is end-to-end

capabilities that make sure that we are ready to fight.”

While encouraging the group to be proud of the Navy’s past accomplishments, Clark encouraged them to keep focused on future challenges.

“Let’s be proud of what has been accomplished. My request to you is this: Stay with it,” the CNO said. “The Navy starts with the fleet, and we have got to provide the tools that the fleet needs so that we can be victorious.”

For more information on the CNO, go to www.chinfo.navy.mil/navpalib/cno.

Thrift Savings Plan: An Investment in the Future

By Journalist 1st Class David Nagle, CNP Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Planning for the financial future is important. Sailors will soon have another means to prepare for that future when the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) open season begins this fall.

TSP is a government retirement and investment program, similar to “401(K)” plans that are offered by civilian corporations. The program encourages participants to voluntarily save a portion of their pre-tax pay in a special retirement account. It differs from a 401K plan in that TSP does not offer matching contributions.

TSP is not a replacement for the 20-year retirement program, but rather a supplemental investment plan. The amount of money Sailors invest and the associated earnings are theirs to keep, even if they do not serve until retirement.

“This is a quantum leap in our pay and compensation package and it’s a good deal for our Sailors,” said Vice Adm. Norb Ryan Jr., Chief of Naval Personnel. “I believe the Navy can

match any civilian corporation in terms of job satisfaction and taking care of our people. This is another step in making the Navy the employer of choice for our people.”

A recent law extended participation in the program to members of the uniformed services.

Active-duty Sailors and Reservists, in any pay status, may enroll in TSP during the open season, from October 9 to December 8. Sailors who do not choose to enroll during this period will have two open seasons per year to enroll, from May 15 to July 31, and from November 15 to January 31.

New Sailors will have 60 days after joining the Navy to enroll in TSP. After that, they may enroll during the semiannual open seasons.

“I’m still discussing this program with my wife,” said Yeoman 2nd Class (SS) Christian Anderson, assigned to USS *Hyman G. Rickover* (SSN 709). “I think it’s a good thing, because it’s another way of setting aside money for the future. The way the program is run,

you never miss the money. It’s gone before you see it.”

Sailors can choose from five TSP investment funds, contributing up to 7 percent of their basic pay each month. This contribution limit will increase by 1 percent each year until 2006, when the cap will be eliminated.

In addition, Sailors can contribute all or any whole percentage of any special or incentive pays, including reenlistment or other bonuses.

“I plan to participate,” said Information Systems Technician 3rd Class Kevin DuBose, a Reservist with Mobile Undersea Warfare Unit 109 in Ft. Worth, Texas. “A financial adviser told me that in order to obtain and maintain a middle-class standard of living in my retirement years, I’d need a net worth of about \$1 million. I’m trying to save as much as I can before I reach retirement age and contributing to a thrift savings plan would be the best

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NMCI Opens Doors to Second NOC and Helpdesk

By the Program Executive Office for Information Technology Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO (NNS) — The Department of the Navy (DoN) and the Information Strike Force (ISF), opened the second Navy Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI) Network Operations Center (NOC), during an Aug. 6 ceremony at Naval Air Station North Island, Coronado Island, Calif.

The keynote speaker was Vice Adm. Richard Mayo, director of the Space, Information Warfare, Command and Control Directorate in the office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

The first NOC opened in Norfolk, Va., in July. The San Diego and Norfolk facilities are located in the two main fleet

concentration areas, serving as the main hubs of NMCI.

These hubs provide services crucial to the operation of the network, such as help desk support, user administration, and network monitoring and maintenance.

Not only are these centers important to the redundancy of the network, but they also serve as the two points of contact for help desk support to the entire network. If one NOC has operational problems the other can take control.

It is the goal of NMCI to combine more than 100 disparate DoN networks into one secure enterprise network that will provide for the

transfer of voice, video and data throughout the enterprise.

"NMCI is an important modernization effort for the DoN," said Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Robert Shea, head of Marine Corps command, control, computer and communications. "It offers the Department a unique opportunity to leverage new technology and industry innovation in order to better execute and accomplish its global mission."

Shea added that NMCI will provide the Marine Corps with a level of service in supporting the enterprise that Marines would not otherwise have.

According to Rick Rosenberg, EDS NMCI program executive, "With the activation of our two Network Operations Centers and help desks, we are ready to proceed with the deployment of NMCI. The Department of the Navy is charting new waters for the federal government and Department of Defense."

More than 600 people attended the event, including representatives for California Gov. Gray Davis and the San Diego County board of supervisors, who proclaimed Aug. 6, 2001 as "NMCI Day."

For more information about NMCI, go to www.peo-it.navy.mil/nmci_fact.html.

San Diego Transportation Incentive Program Begins

By Journalist 1st Class (SW) Scott Sutherland, Naval Station San Diego Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO (NNS) — The departments of Defense (DoD) and Transportation (DoT) recently kicked off their transportation incentive program for military personnel, their dependents and civilian employees of the federal government in San Diego.

The program provides vouchers to military and civilian employees. These vouchers are then exchanged for transit passes that allow military and federal employees to get to and from work.

DoD hopes the program will reduce traffic congestion and air pollution in the San Diego area, and encourage mass transportation alternatives for military personnel and federal employees.

The program originally started last October in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, which includes Maryland and Virginia. The program will later expand to the remaining states, and to the commonwealths of Puerto Rico and Guam.

Naval Station San Diego's parking coordinator, Master Chief Signalman (SW/AW) Rene Nicanor, along with his assistant, Machinist Mate 3rd Class Rhonda Kimball, spearheaded the drive on base to spread the word out about the program to tenant commands and ships.

"We had about 260 people sign up for vouchers during the initial phase of the program," said Nicanor.

He said the vouchers are

distributed quarterly, based on individual requests the previous quarter.

According to Nicanor, vouchers are good for each three-month period, and have to be returned if not used during that time. "There's a lot of accountability with this program."

DoD currently offers vouchers of \$65 for each month. That amount is scheduled to increase to \$100 by January 2002.

Vouchers can be redeemed to ride the trolley system or any other form of public transportation. According to DoD guidance, vouchers can also be used when federal workers ride to work in a vanpool. The guidance states that the vehicle capacity must allow

for a minimum of six adults, excluding the driver.

DoD policy states that military installations and activities will budget for, and provide transportation incentives to, eligible employees. Parking costs, however, will not be used to establish commuter costs.

The program was established last year by an executive order, directing all federal agencies to establish transportation fringe benefit programs to reduce federal employees' contribution to both traffic congestion and air pollution.

For more information on the DoD program, go to www.dodig.osd.mil/AIM/alsd/err.htm and scroll to the bottom to "Transportation Incentive Program."

PCU *Ronald Reagan* Sailors Join USS *Carl Vinson* on WESTPAC Deployment

By USS *Carl Vinson* Public Affairs

USS *Carl Vinson*, At Sea (NNS) — Forty-six Sailors assigned to the pre-commissioning unit (PCU) of *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76) were so anxious to deploy overseas, they volunteered to sail with USS *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70) during the ship's current six-month deployment to the Western Pacific Ocean.

"This is an awesome opportunity to deploy without workups, to see the world and to save money," said Chief Boatswain's Mate (SW) Scott L. Sandquist, leading chief petty officer of the *Ronald Reagan* detachment.

Six of the Sailors have

deployed aboard ships before, but the remaining 40 Sailors are making their maiden deployment aboard a Navy warship.

"They all want to be here and their motivation is infectious," said Sandquist.

The *Reagan* detachment has been assigned to the deck, air, supply and reactor departments aboard *Carl Vinson*.

"Every one of us has integrated completely into the department that we're working for," said Sandquist.

Despite a monthly detachment muster, the *Ronald Reagan* Sailors are a complete

part of the *Carl Vinson* crew. For many of them, this is the first time that they have witnessed the camaraderie of shipmates working together while underway.

"I wouldn't call us a team, we're more like a family," said Mess Management Specialist Seaman Apprentice Terry Bowlett of the *Ronald Reagan* detachment. "Everyone is working together to get the job done."

For many of the younger Sailors in the *Reagan* detachment, the opportunity to go to sea will put them a step above their peers, once they return to Norfolk, Va.

"It's been really cool to get underway. We're getting our quals (qualifications) done and having fun," said Airman Robert McCoy, a member of the *Ronald Reagan* detachment.

For the senior Sailors of the *Reagan* detachment, deploying with *Vinson* is a great way to go to sea again and perform the jobs they love to do.

"I have an overabundance of energy. I need to stay occupied, and this is what we get paid for," said Sandquist.

For more information on PCU *Ronald Reagan*, go to www.reagan.navy.mil.

USS *Winston S. Churchill* visits United Kingdom

By U.S. Naval Forces Europe Public Affairs

LONDON (NNS) — USS *Winston S. Churchill* (DDG 81), the only Navy warship currently named for a foreign leader, is scheduled to arrive in the United Kingdom (UK) this week for a series of port calls. As a courtesy to the ship's namesake country, a member of the Royal Navy is assigned to the ship's crew at all times.

Winston S. Churchill arrives in Portsmouth, England, this week to participate in the International Festival of the Sea. Warships from several nations are scheduled to attend the festival, which is held annually to stimulate interest in Britain's maritime heritage.

The ship will also visit ports in Ireland, Wales and Norway, and will conduct a



USS *Winston S. Churchill* (DDG 81)

U.S. Navy photo

series of training exercises during the deployment.

The ship is named in honor of Sir Winston Spencer Leonard Churchill (1874-1965), best known for his leadership as prime minister of England during World War II. He also was a renowned

political thinker, soldier, pilot, painter, historian, author and orator.

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy awarded Churchill honorary American citizenship. When he retired from the House of Commons in 1964, Churchill had spent

more than six decades in public life, a career that spanned the last great British cavalry charge to the nuclear age. He died Jan. 24, 1965, at the age of 90.

Winston S. Churchill is the 31st Arleigh Burke-class destroyer. The ship is designed to conduct a variety of operations, from peacetime presence and crisis management to sea control and power projection.

The ship is under the command of Cmdr. Michael T. Franken. Based in Norfolk, Va., the 9,500-ton warship is 513 feet long with a 66-foot beam. *Winston S. Churchill* has a crew of 340 Sailors, capable of speeds in excess of 30 knots.

For more information on USS *Winston S. Churchill*, go to www.spear.navy.mil/ships/ddg81.

CNO, con't. from pg. 1

Naval Air Forces (COMNAVAIRFOR); and Commander, Naval Submarine Forces (COMNAVSUBFOR).

These fleet TYCOMs will lead their communities and advise CFFC of vital issues such as modernization needs, training initiatives, and operational concept development. They will provide guidance to their respective forces via the existing lead-follow TYCOM arrangement.

CFFC will also be supported by Commander, 3rd Fleet, who will report on issues pertaining to the development and implementation of IDTC requirements and policies for West Coast naval units.

The Navy Warfare Development Command (NWDC) in Newport, R.I., will report to CFFC as its immediate superior, for purposes of warfare innovation, concept development, fleet and joint experimentation, and the synchronization and dissemination of doctrine.

NWDC will continue to report to the Naval War College in the process of concept development and to the deputy chief of naval operations for warfare requirements and programs on issues pertaining to Navy transformation, and the development of warfare requirements and programs.

This strengthened fleet and CNO-directed relationship will allow NWDC to expand its leading role in Navy experimentation and transformation.

"I still want the Navy Warfare Development Command to have a strong tie to the War College and that whole apparatus, but I want them first and foremost connected to the fleet," said Clark.

These changes to streamline the warfare requirements reporting process will become effective October 1, and will complete the structural elements of Clark's plan to better align the Navy.

Full implementation of this vision will enable the Navy to achieve greater unity of effort in fulfilling the Title 10 responsibilities to organize, train and equip deploying naval forces.

To access the CNO Web page, go to www.chinfo.navy.mil/navpalib/cno.

Thrift, con't. from pg. 2

way to do it."

"The program shows the Navy is trying to help Sailors reach their long-term goals," said Yeoman 1st Class John Cruz, a crewmember aboard USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71). "It tells me that the Navy is looking at the long term and looking out for its families."

A video with valuable TSP information will soon be available to the fleet. The Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET) is also coordinating a lesson plan for distribution to the fleet.

In addition, Sailors will receive forms and educational material during the TSP open season.

For more information on the Thrift Savings Plan and its benefits, go to website www.tsp.gov.

This Week on Navy/Marine Corps News

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Look for the following stories and more on next week's Navy/Marine Corps News show:

- Marine Raiders from World War II are laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery;
- The top scout sniper teams in the Marine Corps compete in Quantico, Va.;
- Sailors and Marines in Hawaii go the extra mile to fight cancer;
- Get some tips on nutrition so you can stay "ship shape."

Compiled on tape #2001-35, the show is on its way to the fleet now.

This Week in Naval History:

Aug. 27, 1959: USS *Observation Island* (EAG 154) launches a *Polaris* missile off Cape Canaveral, Fla. This marks the first time this type of missile is launched from a ship.

- Aug. 28, 1831: The U.S. frigate *Potomac* sails from Sandy Hook, N.J., for the East Indies to protect American commerce from Sumatran pirates.

- Aug. 29, 1983: The first two Marines to die in Beirut, Lebanon, as a result of enemy fire, are killed during a rocket, artillery and mortar attack on the battalion's compound at Beirut International Airport.

- Aug. 30, 1912: The cruiser *Denver* lands a party of Sailors and Marines at San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua, during revolution that erupted against the administration of President Adolfo Diaz.

- Aug. 31, 1842: Congress replaces the Board of Navy Commissioners, a group of senior officers who oversaw naval technical affairs, with the five technical bureaus of the Navy. Only one bureau, the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, continues to serve under its original name.

- Sept. 1, 1814: The U.S. sloop-of-war *Wasp* sinks the British brig *Avon* during a night action in the Eastern Atlantic.

- Sept. 2, 1945: Japan signs surrender documents on board USS *Missouri* (BB 63), at anchor in Tokyo Bay. Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz signs for the United States.

Visit the Naval Historical Center Web site at www.history.navy.mil for more information about naval history.

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